

# Karate really a duel with oneself, not an opponent, UH karate instructor says

by Debbie Callier  
News Reporter

Some students who lack confidence take drugs, drink alcohol, go crazy or commit suicide. Grandmaster Kim Soo offers another solution — martial arts training.

Hundreds of UH and Rice students training with the UH karate instructor on campus each semester are finding that karate changes their outlook.

"You are not here to defeat each other. You are here to challenge yourself, defeat your fears and improve yourself," Kim told students recently at a martial arts

festival on campus.

More than 160 UH students competed individually and as a team against Rice. UH students scored 250 points to Rice's 240.

Students begin as white belts and many continue on to orange belts in the intermediate class and to more advanced levels at Kim's off-campus facilities.

Awareness, greater flexibility, improved hand-to-eye coordination and increased abilities in other sports are

bonuses students attribute to concentrating and drilling on karate forms.

Karate makes Melanie Scher, a junior psychology major, feel stronger and less vulnerable.

Karate gives her an outlet in an area besides academics. Although this is her first semester of karate, she is already taking three additional classes at a Kim Soo facility off-campus.

Gary Santa Maria, a junior in HRM, took his first course at UH more than two years ago, continued with Kim off-campus, and now has a brown belt and assists with the PE classes.

Classes begin each semester with 150 students and have low drop-out rates.

The atmosphere is military-like in its discipline and emphasis on drills, yet is ballet-like in its emphasis on beauty and natural movement, according to Randy Petrick, a senior marketing student in the intermediate class.

"Discipline is the main part of the class," he said. "Form follows function. It's fun, though, and I am more limber and stretched out than when I started."

Movie depictions of karate fighters mislead people into thinking karate produces magic results.

Results come from applying the natural laws of the body, mind and spirit: sweat, hard work, concentration and training.

The technique is called Cha Yon

Ryo — the natural way. It was developed by Kim combining elements of taekwon do, karate and jujitsu.

He learned martial arts in Korea for self-defense against the older bullies who

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**- Grandmaster Kim Soo**

repeatedly beat him up when he skipped sixth grade. Within two years he had a black belt, enormous confidence and better grades in school.

Confidence is more valuable than money or intelligence, according to Kim, and is one of the benefits of continued training.

Mary Abraham, a senior in political science, said the training is difficult and requires lots of concentration. The intent is to make the movements so instinctive that they become a natural part of everything else you do.

For Todd Kleinbans, a senior in marketing, benefits even include an improved bowling form. Throwing one hand up for balance — karate style — when he bowls has actually improved his scores.

## Melcher House bids in — lower than expected

by Michael D. Oeser  
Daily Cougar Staff

UH System administrators opened bids on the Melcher House Tuesday, but offers on the unused UH president's residence fell far short of what they hoped.

While the lowest of two appraisals the system contracted estimated the property's value at \$675,000, one bid from a private individual, Jimmy Tran, was made for \$386,000 and a second bid was made for \$352,000. The second bid, however, added \$200,000 in advertising services by Paul Schiebl, a trustee for Ad Group. Details on the bidders were unavailable at press time.

Originally told that the sealed bids must be at least above the lowest value estimate.

Renee Block, director of UH System Real Estate Holdings, will issue an official statement today on whether one of these bids will be accepted.